

Church Work.

Book and Tract Department.

WONDERFUL DEVELOPMENTS.

"Great oaks from little acorns grow" used to be the copy set in the old time copy book, but the truth it contained is yet a truth. Great lessons are learned from little things. At the feet of the Master on the Mount, grew a bunch of lilies; using them he taught his disciples a great lesson of faith, and through them teaches us the same lesson. If the flower that is so dependent and insignificant and short-lived, and yet is cared for by God, how much more will he care for us who are made in his own image, and for whom Jesus died to save,—the great lesson of faith may be learned from a little flower.

In the world around us we see the same truth. The law of gravitation was revealed to Newton by seeing an apple fall to the ground; the application of steam in the use of machinery came from seeing the lid of the tea-kettle lifted, by Watts. The tunnels that pierce our mountains and link states and nations is on the mode of the cell made by the honey bee. Weaving came from the spider and its web. Nature, science and art, all furnish illustrations of this great fact; great developments from seemingly insignificant facts. As a matter of fact, judging from results, there is nothing little in God's great world.

Working for souls we see this law enforced, in the use of the printing press. There are thousands of illustrations. Look at the great Baptist publication home in Philadelphia. A preacher started the tract work, carried his outfit around in his hat like an old fashion postmaster; look at the outgrowth.

Gen. Booth, a few years ago was frowned on by pulpit and pen. Several weeks ago in Chicago, pulpit, press and pen united with others to give him a welcome to the great city. In his address before them, he stated that the flag of the Salvation Army floated in forty-two countries,—what a growth; so we might continue. The following item shows the growth of the American Tract Society, an agent for great good in the world. Think of a building, twenty stories high, with six hundred offices growing from a little tract. How true—great oaks from little acorns grow.

During the past year a great change has occurred in the home of the American Tract Society. In the march of seventy years the center of New York commercial life has moved far up town, and with it the large publishing houses, booksellers and charitable institutions have gone. It has been found that the interests of the

society could best be served by taking its place in a new center, and by erecting on the former site a new and modern structure suited to the requirements of the present time. In 1825, for the purpose of providing a building for the offices, depository and manufactory of the society, its friends raised a special fund amounting to about \$26,000. The value of the gift so invested has grown by the rise in real estate that by a mortgage on the land, funds have been provided for the erection of this new building, so that there will be no diversion of the moneys used for the ordinary operations of the society. It is hoped, moreover that in the end it will yield a considerable revenue to supplement the funds that are usually available from other sources for carrying out the purposes for which the society exists. This new building, which is now being constructed, will be a twenty-story one, fitted throughout with the latest conveniences. The height will be nearly 300 feet, and it will contain 600 offices.

The Brethren Book and Tract work is growing. Well I should say it was. At a rough estimate through the various lines of work, as much as fifty million pages of literature have been scattered during the past ten years. Did you think of what has been done? I do not think I over estimate, as reports and figures have been watched; but this is not a drop in the bucket to what is needed and might be done. If this work is watched and cared for, watered with our prayers, fertilized with our means, and cultivated through God's grace, the growing tree will spread, the buds of faith will unfold, the blossoms of hope make sweet the atmosphere of our spiritual life, and the fruit of love be gathered and enjoyed by those who hunger and thirst after righteousness.

May God help us to lay aside all indifference and overcome all obstacles, and scatter these leaves from the tree of life. Read Eph. iii, 14, 21.

1. Unto Him that is able to do;
2. What we ask;
3. All that we ask;
4. What we think;
5. All that we think;
6. All that we ask or think;
7. Above all that we ask or think;
8. Abundantly above all that we ask or think;
9. Exceeding abundantly above all.

The following is from: How to bring men to Christ, by Mr. Torrey, Supt. of Mr. Moody's Bible Institute, in Chicago, a man who knows how to work for the salvation of souls, and in that work is very earnest in the use of tracts. A wisely chosen tract placed in the hand of the one with whom you wish to speak will often lead easily and naturally to the subject. One day I was riding on a train and praying that God would use me to lead some one to His Son. A young lady, daughter of a minister, with whom I had had some conversation on this

subject came in with a friend and took the seat immediately in front of me. I took out a little bundle of tracts and selected one that seemed adapted for the purpose and handed it to her and asked her to read it. As she read, I prayed. When she had finished, I leaned over and asked her what she thought about it. She was deeply moved and I asked her if she would not accept Christ right there. Her difficulties were soon met and answered and she accepted Christ. As she left the train she thanked me very heartily for what I had done for her.

A good tract or pamphlet for christian workers to use is Mr. Torrey's "How to bring men to Christ." It contains 121 papers, and is filled with more practical suggestions than any book of the kind I ever read. It will cost 75 cents; but its value cannot be estimated in dollars or cents; it is essential to every christian worker. Send to the Book and Tract Committee for a copy.

Here is what Rev. Dr. T. Pierson, says. He is speaking of Jerry McAuley's mission: "I'd get rid of operatic quartets, and instead of intellectuality, poetry, and elaborate essays in the pulpits, I'd have the pastor stick to the Gospel. The trouble is that pastors have too much to do to please those on the inside, so they can't look out for those on the outside. I tell you, as regards reaching the masses the church of God is a failure. Philadelphia's churches were crowded twenty years ago, and they are comparatively empty though there are 400,000 people who couldn't get inside the churches if crowded to the doors. If you want to save a drunkard you must get to the drunkard. To save any sinful man or woman you must get rid of the trammels of respectability, conventionality, and exclusiveness. The kid glove is a bad conductor. Dr. Pierson is hewing to the line; it is a good thing if the chips do not fly in your face.

"Our Bible, Church, and Country," has been placed in the hands of the Book and Tract Committee, they have the last hundred copies, and if you want one, now is the time to get it. Send to them for it, not to me. This book is suggestive and helpful along the lines of church and state, and where there are young people in the home it is valuable. One hundred copies will not last long, and as these are the last of the last edition you had best talk soon. Get a copy. Perhaps you can earn a copy by doing a little work; write and see.

This letter is partly, for the most part made up of quotations, but they are all good. The following from the Weekly Witness contains some hints that if